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Ask not the stars if God there be. Nor idly question Space and Time; Think not to learn of mystery From Nature's minstrelsy and rhyme. Thy spirit knows. It whispers how— Cease asking once, and thou shalt hear— This God is but thyself, and thou Art God Himself, and doubly dear. —Howard V. Sutherland, in San Francisco Star.

POLITICS VERSUS BUSINESS.

Tax-payers and voters of Umatilla county will be interested in knowing that two republican members of the county court, Horace Walker and T. P. Gilliland, yesterday tendered the Morning Tribune \$400 in full payment of a \$616 printing bill, thus admitting that the contract made with the Tribune by those same members of the court was about 35 per cent graft on the taxpayers.

Judge Hartman, a member of the county court, objected to the contract at the time the two commissioners gave it to the Tribune, over the exceptionally low bid of the East Oregonian, and he has today filed a bill of exceptions to the action of the commissioners, and offers the Tribune but \$300 in full payment for its \$616 bill.

How the commissioners are to justify their action before the people remains one of the problems of the campaign. The Tribune bid \$2.60 per inch for printing the delinquent tax list, and the East Oregonian bid 60 cents per inch. Judge Hartman favored giving the contract to the lowest bidder, but the two commissioners decided against him and gave it to the Tribune. The result is a graft of \$400 on the taxpayers in this little item alone.

Two hundred inches of delinquent tax list would have cost the taxpayers but \$120, if published in the East Oregonian at 60 cents per inch; in the Tribune, the same amount is costing the county \$520, at \$2.60 per inch, beside the increase in the cost by the padding of the type by the Tribune, to make one-fifth more matter than there was in the tax list.

Aside from the graft attempted on the people, the additional cost and trouble of a suit against the county to collect the full price, is threatened by the Tribune.

The East Oregonian is not posing as a martyr nor a moralist. It presents these facts to the people as part of the business record of Umatilla county. The business of the county should be conducted on the same lines of honesty that mark any private business. This paper made a fair and square bid for business, at a price that would mean a fair return for the service, from the county.

It promised nothing, threatened nothing, made no demands, used no undue influence, proffered no division of spoils, truckled to no party nor part of a party, but went after business with a fair, business bid, which entitled it to the county printing.

It expected the county commissioners to exercise common business honesty and judgment at least, in spite of politics, but was deceived. Instead of giving the contract to an independent paper at the cost of \$120 per year to the taxpayers, the commissioners rewarded the parti-

san tool, by giving it a contract that amounted to \$520, for exactly the same work.

Crown the man and curse the woman, that's the human way. Take the libertine to your breast and forgive him, but lock the door against his paramour and send her to lower depths. Hazel Beaumont, whose real name is withheld out of mercy for her aged mother in Portland, was sentenced to pay a fine for vagrancy and gross immorality, in Seattle yesterday. She was raised in Portland and was a favorite in the highest social circles four years ago. She was bright, vivacious, intelligent, educated, refined and had friends by the score. She was without a peer as an entertainer at the little social functions of the best circles. Finally a "nice" man won her confidence and betrayed her. From her highest position she fell to the lowest. The wretch who was the cause of her downfall never suffered a single loss of prestige, but she went out of her little circle disgraced and besmirched, never to return. He went about his business unashamed, she went to the gutter and to vagrancy. He now has a respectable family and a "good" name, she is an outcast. His mock charity and benevolence is the talk of the town. Her name is a hiss and a byword. Isn't it time to stop this unjust practice? Isn't it time to make the outcast in male attire wear his brand of Cain, as well as the trusting girl he started downward?

The voters of Umatilla county are invited to picture to themselves, the vast idle tracts of arid land lying in the northern and western portions of the county at this time. It is impossible for individuals to irrigate these large tracts, and the government will decline to take up the work until Oregon has passed some intelligent legislation. On the coming legislature and its practical common sense, depends the future of this county. The state has appointed an irrigation commission to frame a law. It is doing extraordinary work. The next step must be to elect practical men, enthusiastic irrigators, pronounced agitators for irrigation development, to pass upon and urge that law in the legislature. This land must all be reclaimed and made habitable. It cannot be under the present status of the irrigation law. Voters can hurry along the settlement and reclamation of that land, or they can retard it, just as they will. Irrigation must be the campaign issue in Eastern Oregon, until this waste is brought into fertility.

It is impossible to say to what extent American arts and education are figuring in the Japanese victories in the Orient. Her best progress Japan has modeled after this country. Her best education she has obtained here. Her highest arts she has plucked from American soil. Her scholarship and generalship bear the American stamp. Her warships, armament, gunners, tactics, all bear the brand of the Yankee. To the other American tactics which have been winners for the Japs, that nation will now add the fleet-footed broncho of the Northwest states, which, in the Japanese cavalry, will prove to be the same winning force that the American gunner has been on the Japanese warship.

THE HIGHER PRICE OF BEEF.

The pretext on which the wholesale meat dealers add a quarter of a cent a pound to the price of beef is the familiar one that the stock on hand is insufficient to meet the increased demand. Yet the complaint from the ranges is that the price of cattle has been steadily falling for two years. Hoof cattle now bring \$5.50 a hundred pounds, as against \$6.50 in 1901. According to Secretary Martin, of the National Association, stockmen have lost \$750,000,000 within less than two years through this shrinkage of values. The loss has been due not to the operation of the law of supply and demand, but in spite of it, and directly to the action of the packers' combination in artificially depressing the price of livestock while forcing up that of dressed beef. Having taken their toll from the cattlemen they are now again taking it from the householder.

What are anti-trust and anti-monopoly bills for if they cannot prevent this kind of robbery?—New York World.

TRAINING ENGINEERS.

Another step in the direction of technical education has been made in the city of Dresden in the establishment of a school for locomotive driver apprentices. The initiative was taken by the Locomotive Drivers' Association of Saxony, which succeeded in interesting the members of the Dresden city council in the scheme, as well as the directors of the technical school and the administration of the Royal State Railroads. The school is for apprentices between 25 and 30 years of age who are employed in the Dresden car shops. Among the subjects taught are German, arithmetic, graphics and the mechanism of locomotives.

DRIFTWOOD.

The New York Times relates the following experience of one of the princes of the church in that state. Bishop Potter was preaching one Sunday evening in a small town in the Adirondacks, where he had a summer camp. When the services were over a tall, gaunt man, with the air of a backwoodsman, came up to the bishop with outstretched hand. "I've herd ye preach twice afore this," he said, "an' I like yer preachin'. I allus learn somethin' now from ye, an' I'd rid ten miles tonight to hear ye, an' I'd rid ten more, fer as usual, I heerd somethin' tonight that I never knowed afore." "Well, I am glad of that," said the bishop, shaking the outstretched hand; "and what was it you learned tonight?" "Why, bishop, I found out for the first time in my life that Sodom and Gomorrah wuzn't twins."

Marshal Oyama, chief of the Japanese general staff, was, during his service as judge advocate at Tokio, at a ball one night. He was standing near a doorway at this ball, when a beautiful European woman swept by, and so greatly did her charm impress Judge Oyama, that he exclaimed involuntarily: "What a lovely woman." She overheard him. With a little smile she looked back over her white shoulder and, recognizing him, she said: "What an excellent judge."

When Esther Cleveland was a little girl, her father once telephoned to the White House from Chicago and asked Mrs. Cleveland to bring the child to the 'phone. Lifting the little one up to the instrument, Mrs. Cleveland watched her expression change from bewilderment to wonder, and then to fear. It was surely her father's voice, yet Esther looked at the telephone incredulously. After examining the tiny opening in the receiver, the little girl suddenly burst into tears. "Oh, mamma," she sobbed, "how can we ever get papa out of that little hole?"

Imaginings.

Through the sum and sweep of the countless year, Humbly at many a countless shrine, Men and women have wept their tears, Or quaffed to the lees communion wine.

But never a gleam of glory fell In splendor athwart the altar stone And never a sound, but the passing bell, Smiting the air with its awful tone.

They have stormed the stars with their passion cry, For hope, or mercy, or justice here, Plead that their dear ones would not die— Plead with many a sob and tear.

Folly! for never an answer came, And never an arrow was turned away; It sped to its work the same, Whether they prayed or scorned to pray.

From cradle to coffin we struggle and seek, Till the fugitive years of our lives are passed, And whether our lot be blessed or bleak, We are tossed, like dogs, to the worms at last.

What is the use of it all, I say, Why are we brought from the dark unknown, To laugh and weep through a little day, That drifts us under a burial stone. Tutuilla, April 24.

How to Help Your Girls.



The anxious mother of the family often carries the whole burden of responsibility so far as the home medication of common ailments of the girls or boys are concerned. The cost of the doctor's visits are very often too great for consideration. At such times the mother is invited to write to Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., for medical advice, which is given free. Correspondence is held strictly confidential.

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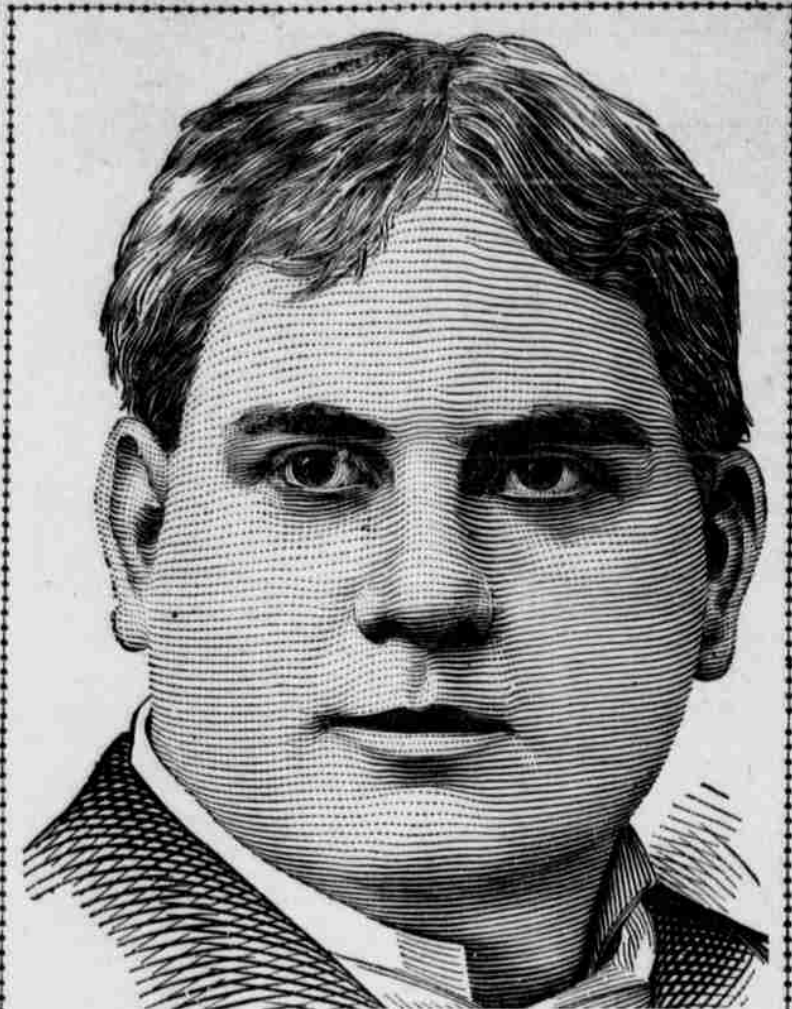
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Dr. Hartman was the first physician in the United States to accurately describe systemic catarrh. His remedy Peruna, the only systemic catarrh remedy yet devised, is now known all over the civilized world. A person having used it once can never be persuaded to be without it when in need of such a remedy. Write for a copy of Dr. Hartman's latest book entitled "Summer Catarrh." Address Dr. Hartman, Columbus, O.

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